The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

(ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG in case of establishment of any diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:—

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

(iii) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

(iv) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non-domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

Refinery at Kakinada

248. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is holding talks with any private players for forging a strategic partnership on its proposed refinery at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the expected cost of the project and by when it would commence the operations; and

(c) what would be the stake of ONGC, financial institutions and the strategic partner in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Limited (MRPL) a subsidiary of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Andhra Pradesh, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) and Kakinada Sea Ports Ltd. (KSPL) to set up an export oriented refinery within Kakinada Special Economic Zone (SEZ) subject to techno-economic feasibility.

(b) M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) has been engaged to prepare and submit the Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for a capacity of 15.0 MMT and the same is awaited. The exact quantum of investment and timeline for completion can be firmed up only after receipt of DFR & Financial appraisal of the same.

(c) Pursuant to the MoU, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the name of Kakinada Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (KRPL) was incorporated with the following equity structure:

MRPL	-	46%
IL & FS & KSPL	-	51%
Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC)	-	03%

The above equity stake may undergo change if viable propositions are received from interested strategic partners, as also due to certain other strategic reasons.

Survey for discovery of oil and gas in country

249. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of survey for discovery of new gas and oil blocks conducted by Government during 2006-07 and 2007-08 till date, State-wise, location-wise, company-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of outcome of each of such survey;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by Government on each of such survey;

(d) the details of achievement made from these surveys along with the quantity of oil and gas reserves discovered;

(e) the steps taken by Government to explore such reserves; and

(f) by when production of such blocks expected to start particularly in Rajasthan and country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) During 2006-07 and 2007-08, ONGC has carried out exploration in the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Tripura together with exploration work in the Eastern and Western Offshore areas of the country.

In the corresponding period, Oil India Limited has carried out exploration in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

In 2006-07 and 2007-08, Pvt./JV (Joint Venture) companies have carried out exploration in the awarded blocks in the States of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and offshore are including deep water.

To obtain data for promotion of acreages, DGH has also carried out 2D seismic in Kutch Basin, magnetic telluric surveys in Central India and remote sensing surveys in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(b) to (e) Exploration of oil and gas is not deterministic. The results are also not available immediately. The information obtained through these surveys will be used by the companies in their exploration efforts.

The Government does not undertake such surveys. DGH has made an investment of Rs. 0.96 crore for carrying out pre-exploration surveys in 2006-07.